

THE Talon



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



Photo by Master Sgt. Richard D. Glynn

A soldier from the 411th MP Co. mans an MK-19 grenade launcher in the zone of separation near Luke Sept. 14.

By Cpl. Len Butler
100th MPAD

Another chapter in the General Framework Agreement for Peace closed Saturday with national elections determining who will lead Bosnia-Herzegovina into the final few years of this century.

U.S. Reps. John Murtha, R-Pa., Peter King, R-N.Y. and Minnesota State Rep. Mike Jaros, D-Duluth, along with members of the State Department and Department of Defense were members of one of two U.S. delegations observing the elections.

Arriving at Tuzla airfield, the delega-

tion was briefed by Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, then whisked away aboard two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to check out polling stations in Tuzla and Kalesija.

Security was tight as soldiers of 1st

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Why my vote was important

By Arijana Sabanovic
Talon Staff

As a Tuzla native, I will remember September 1996 as one of the most important times of my life. It is the month I voted for the first time in my life.

I am writing this to tell you how I feel about the elections.

When I marked my ballots, I felt for the first time like just maybe I could

change something. I felt like maybe I could have some control of my destiny, my future.

I didn't think a lot about politics. I just thought that my ballot means something. Someone will look at my ballot and read what I marked. What I marked!

That was what I was thinking about

See *VOTE*, page 12

From the top

Iron Soldiers made peace possible

On the night of the Bosnia-Herzegovina elections I was speaking with my good friend, 4th Aviation Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. John E. Lawrence.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley
1st Armored Division

We both felt a great deal of pride concerning the role that our Iron Soldiers had played in the successful completion of the election process.

Lawrence recounted a story to me in which a young soldier asked him early in the deployment why the U.S. troops had been sent to the former Yugoslavia. He explained to that troop that we are here as

part of a bigger picture, much bigger than just our individual jobs.

Iron Soldiers must realize that each and every one of us is filling a role that is helping to ensure peace in what was once a nation paralyzed by the ravages of war.

Ethnic animosity has run deep in this part of the world for hundreds of years. In 1992, this hatred bubbled to the surface and let loose some very brutal and savage killing.

However, since late 1995 when the Dayton Peace Accord was signed and Task Force Eagle troops began arriving, the fighting has virtually stopped.

For the first time in many seasons, farmers are able to harvest their crops and parents feel safe enough to let their children out of their homes again to play.

Iron soldiers, your sacrifice has not been in vain. The holding of last Saturday's election (an event which seemed hardly imaginable just one year ago) and the peaceful day-to-day life of the country is testimony to your hard work, professionalism, and dedication to duty.

However, our job is not yet finished. Sept. 14 represented a turning point for the deployment. We must stay focused on the task at hand—redeployment.

We have come too far and accomplished too much to let our guard down now. As we prepare to head home, don't let complacency take over. NCOs ensure that standards are maintained as we head down the home stretch.

Iron Soldiers take care of each other. Hooah! Hooah! Hooah!

Viewpoint

Task Force Eagle headed for winning season

With football season at hand, I thought perhaps we might take a look at Task Force Eagle's 'score' and field position as we move into our fourth quarter. Looking back, it's been one hell of a game and Task Force Eagle is holding strong. We're ahead by a healthy margin but with the team a little tired it's natural to want to cut corners and not run out all plays as practiced. Now is not the time for reckless behavior on the field. We must not let poor decisions diminish our lead.



Capt. Todd D. Lyle
TFE Safety

As a whole, we have performed with superior skill. Let's keep it up, for in this quarter we're still playing both offensive and defensive positions. It's time for increased concentration, well thought-out moves, and high physical and mental energy as we hit the field again. Our game plan is to play

through to the finish. With this in mind, you may ask yourself why don't we just stick with the procedures we currently have? We need to remember that changes in force protection are designed for our safety.

You may feel perfectly safe in your particular base camp or area of operation. However, collectively, there may be a risk brought about by acts unfamiliar to us or those around us.

A loss of focus can be the undoing of this successful mission. More than 20,000 American players have participated in Task Force Eagle thus far, and

we have had few accidents or injuries. Lately, however, our record is slipping. We have just begun our redeployment and we have already experienced serious equipment loss due to roadway accidents. Remember, 80 percent of all Army accidents are due to human error.

Overconfidence, inexperience, inattention, and fatigue are a few human factors that contribute to accidents.

Each day we receive new individuals full of enthusiasm and ideas. It is our responsibility to explain the "rules of the road" to them. If we take a lackadaisical attitude about our duties or act tired or uncaring, others will soon follow suit and our overall performance will suffer. Each and every one of us must continue to perform our tasks with an active mind.

Think back to how many

times you have driven that same route or cleared your weapon and have had a close call.

Now look around and ask yourself, how many people do you know who have had accidents performing an identical task? It is our mindset that keeps us sharp, not our comfort level. Sure, preventative maintenance checks and services, weapons cleaning and handling, and living space improvements are not the most exciting activities. However, they are the foundation on which everything else is based.

Soon you will be asked to load up your belongings and enter an unfamiliar environment. You will be asked to perform additional tasks at which you may be a little rusty. This combined with your increased work load will put bring about stress. Now is the time for individual mental preparation.

THE TALON

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**9MM PISTOL**

Clear it right

1. Unholster weapon and point it at the clearing barrel.



2. Put the weapon on safe and remove the magazine.

3. Lock the slide to the rear. Look into the chamber to verify there are no rounds. Let the slide ride forward.



4. Charge the pistol three more times; watch for ejecting rounds. Reholster weapon.

Perimeter patrol provides protection

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

As Bosnian workers head home from Eagle Base and soldiers call it a day and retreat to their hootches, a squad from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry gears up for a patrol.

"These patrols maintain base security," Staff Sgt. Bobby J. Jernigan, 36, of Chicago said. "The patrol also is a show of force to the local population."

"Local reaction to the patrols has been very positive," said Cpl. Christopher M. Taylor, a 29-year-old native of Green Acres, Fla. "They like us a lot, especially the children. They always rush to see us."

Taylor recalled a lady cutting roses from her garden in front of her home

and giving them to each soldier on patrol that evening.

The patrol stops at designated checkpoints along the route. Security is always the top priority.

Upon reaching a checkpoint, soldiers immediately form a 360-degree perimeter, then perform equipment checks to make sure all gear is accounted for.

"I try to save as much of my back strength as possible at these checkpoints," Taylor said.

In addition to his regular gear he had the added weight of the radio, starcluster flares and smoke grenades.

"When we get to a checkpoint, we like the local townspeople to see us.

So we take our time a little before we pro-

ceed to the next checkpoint," Jernigan said.

"Going on patrols is a lot better than having to sit in a guard tower for 12 hours," said Spc. William A. Klemish, a 21 year-old from Tacoma, Wash. "Patrols give us a chance to go out see how the locals live."

"Peace means a lot for all parties, including us," Pfc. H. Robert Schumacher III, 19, of York, Pa. said.

"It affects our lives as well as theirs. Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."

Pfc. Christopher E. Richie, 21, of Texas, said he thought IFOR should tread cautiously over the next few weeks.

"Even though we have the power to micro-manage every aspect of this country, I think we should allow the factions to slowly start taking control in order to work together," Richie said.

Pfc. Brian J. Leyva, 19, of Los Angeles, said the only thing he cares about is doing his missions.

"As far as I'm concerned," Leyva said, "only time will tell what's going to happen to this country."

"As for Co. C, 3-12, we're going to do the time, and not let the time do us."

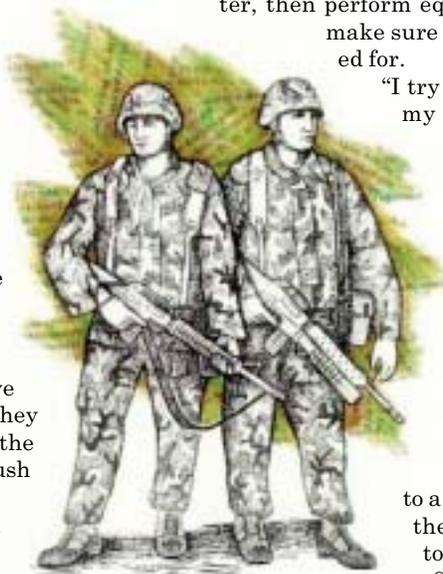


Illustration by Spc. Theresa L. Unger

Checkpoint Charlie: Life in Bosnia's hot zone

By Sgt. 1st Class
KEVIN L. ROBINSON
Army News Service

As checkpoints go, Charlie really isn't much to see. Right now, it's quiet in this northeastern section of the zone of separation.

But the guardians of Checkpoint Charlie know that each passing hay wagon or motorist could shatter the fragile peace.

Sandbags, tents, guard shack and the imposing barrel of an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank guard the approach

to the checkpoint.

Armor adds sharp teeth to the soldiers who watch traffic along the road called Route Hawk.

Geographically, Charlie is in a perfect spot to play traffic cop. It is situated at a crossroads in the ZOS.

The checkpoint also acts as a neutral zone for Bosnians who want to reunite with family and friends on the other side of the ZOS.

"The desire for Serbs to move west toward Muslim areas is almost nil," 2nd Lt. Schley "Jake" Frazer said. "But there has been quite a bit of Muslim movement to the east."

Daily patrols from Checkpoint Charlie hope to convince the different factions that it's OK to travel across the Inter-Entity Boundary.

ary Line.

"We spread the word that they can cross the IEBL, and they can go anywhere they want, and nobody will stop them," Sgt. 1st Class Leon Snyder said. "Some will come to the checkpoint, stop, and ask if they can stay here and wait for their family to come up. There's still a lot of hate and fear to overcome."



Photo by Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning, Digitized by Capt. Terry I. Conder

Hungary band feeds on Steel frenzy

By Capt.

MICHAEL H. MIETZNER

Coalition Press Information
Center Tuzla

Steel Castle was the place to be recently, as Hungary's top rock band, *EDDA muvek*, thundered into the camp to entertain American, Hungarian and Italian soldiers.

"The band's performance is a thank you from the Hungarian government to IFOR troops," said Col. Janos Isaszegi, Hungarian armed forces inspector general.

"This is the hottest band in Hungary right now, if not in all of Europe," Isaszegi said. And judging by the reaction of the troops, he was right.

After an opening act by the one-man band, Péter Gerendás, whose set included a Hungarian version of Louis Armstrong's "Wonderful World," *EDDA muvek* blasted the audience with some classic rock tunes.

The band's noise level wasn't a problem; the crowd was full of artillerymen and combat engineers who are used to deafening noises.

Hungarian soldiers were ecstatic over the band's performance. As the evening progressed, U.S. soldiers joined the Hungarians at the edge of the stage.

"This was definitely worth



Photo by First Sgt. Major Benoit Roosen

American soldiers join Hungarian rock band *EDDA muvek* on stage at Steel Castle.

freezing my butt off for out here tonight," said 20-year-old Pfc. Aimeé E. Zins, Company B, 94th Engineer Battalion.

Lead singer Attila Pataky came off the stage to sing a love ballad to Zins.

Despite the language barrier, the band members didn't have much trouble getting their

message through to the troops.

"We are here to perform for the best troops in IFOR. Without you there would be no peace here," said Master of Ceremonies Csaba Mårtou.

The soldiers roared their agreement.

As a light rain started to fall, Hungary's hottest female vocal-

ist, Sarolta Zalatnay, belted out some crowd favorites, including Janis Joplin's "(Won't You Buy Me A) Mercedes Benz."

Zalatnay recently suffered a painful knee injury, but she insisted on performing.

EDDA muvek is originally from Miskolc, Hungary, but now calls Budapest home.

Soldiers impress presidential delegation

By Cpl. Rob Glenn
367th MPAD

A presidential delegation led by Ambassador Richard D. Holbrooke was happy with what they saw on election day in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Our country can be proud of what American soldiers have done here," Congressman Steny H. Hoyer, D-Md. said.

The delegation flew to McGovern Base, home of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, where soldiers conducted business as usual on the historic day.

And business as usual meant patrolling main supply routes, meeting with local of-



Illustration by Spc. Theresa L. Unger

ficials and ensuring freedom of movement.

In the days before Sept. 14, soldiers delivered sealed boxes of ballots and neutral voting materials. They also put up tents for polling stations, and made radio checks.

"The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe doesn't have the logistics we do," said Capt. Kevin McAllister, 28,

Company A commander, a native of Bridgeton, N.J. "Without us, they probably wouldn't be able to do this. We're glad to help."

While politicians and OSCE officials focused on election issues, soldiers went about their work.

"The bottom line is all the lives we've saved. I let the higher-ups worry about the

elections," said Sgt. Hank Lezon, 27.

Lezon said that on patrol, his squad often meets kids. "Kids are able to go to school now without worrying about getting shot," he said. "That didn't happen until we got here."

Carl Bildt, High Representative for the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace, said American soldiers have played an important role in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially during the elections.

"IFOR has been extremely important. The U.S. contribution has been immensely important, both politically and militarily," Bildt said.

In the highly contested city of Brcko, voter turnout wasn't as large as anticipated, and there were no incidents.

"This has been a great day for freedom and democracy," said Col. Gregory A. Fonteneau, 1st Brigade commander. "Peace is a good thing."



1

Cpl. Rob Glenn



September
14, 1996



2

Cpl. Rob Glenn



3

Warrant Officer Giuseppe Mellillo



1) Writing on the
2) IFOR troops bring
3) Voters line up a

4

Cpl. Rob Glenn

Troops make history

To the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and civilians of Task Force Eagle —

Congratulations on your magnificent performance in supporting the general elections of Bosnia-Herzegovina. You have shown the world that there is no mission too great, no challenge too tough for you to overcome. Saturday's achievement — of which you can be justifiably proud — is historic in scope and provides hope for the people of this troubled region.

Over the last several months, you have endured hardship and sacrificed much to do what many thought impossible — you have stopped the killing and given the Bosnian people a chance for peace. Today, the leaders of the world stand in awe of what you have accomplished.

Your nations are extremely proud of you and so am I. Working together, you have earned the respect of those you came to help. I am truly honored to serve with you. You are a great credit to the profession of arms.

Well done — and thank you.

WILLIAM L. NASH
Major General, USA
Commanding

...wall says it all.
...ng reassuring presence.
...at polling station.



Master Sgt. Richard Glynn

4) A bus moves voters to polling stations
5) Honorable Richard D. Holbrooke answers the press near Brcko.



Cpl. Rob Glenn



Sgt. Lance M. Kamisugi

By Spc. CRAIG PICKETT
350TH MPAD

CHECKPOINT W30 — Checkpoint whiskey-three-zero had humble beginnings, but now it's a model site.

Whiskey 30 is responsible for keeping a peaceful separation along Route Mississippi between the factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The checkpoint is located in the middle of the zone of separation. Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 68th Armor, monitor the route 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"When we first arrived, it was pretty bad," Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Clark, 31, from Brunswick, Ga., said. "We were living in a building infested with rats. But things have gotten better and better since we've been here."

The checkpoint has two sleeping tents, a mess tent and a recreation tent.

The recreation tent houses a ping-pong table, a *fussball* table and a dart board. It also has a small collection of weights. Food is delivered twice a day.

Whiskey 30 was so well designed, Hohenfels modeled its training checkpoint after it.

"It's not that bad, living out here," Spc. Gary E. McDowell, 26, from Fulton, Miss., said. "I've seen worse at other checkpoints. This one is set up nice."

The mess tent is usually the center of activity. That's where soldiers congregate to talk, eat and play board games.

But it's not all fun and games at Whiskey 30. Soldiers spend a great deal of time training and working the checkpoint.

Having the unit together provides an ideal training opportunity.

"Being here gives us a good chance for crew training," Staff Sgt. Tony Garrison, 33, from Knoxville, Tenn. said.

Most days are uneventful, and not much traffic flows down Mississippi except for Army convoys and civilian-contracted trucks.

"After eight months in Bosnia, this is a pretty smooth operation," Garrison said.

"We did a lot of training prior to coming here, so we were prepared. We keep the training up and don't lose sight of what we're supposed to do," said Pfc. Jadon C. Hartmann, a 21-year-old from Oklahoma City, Okla.

Living and working in a small area has brought unit members closer together.

"When you're living with your soldiers, you build teamwork. No one here goes home at 1700," Garrison said.

Engineers give hot tips for cold weather

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER
100TH MPAD

While soldiers of the 40th Engineer Battalion are busy improving main supply routes and working construction, mechanics of Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion make sure trucks keep trucking and tracks keep tracking.

"We are the highest echelon of maintenance in the Bosnian theater," Spc. Michael Barcena, 21, of Miami said.

Company B provides di-

rect support for everything from HMMWVs to armored personnel carriers.

And Company B mechanics still make housecalls to home bases and MSRs to fix broken-down vehicles.

"Other than the normal wear and tear on the vehicles we haven't many problems," Barcena said.

However, winter could change things in a hurry.

"The mixture of snow and ice makes a dangerous combination," Pfc. Troy P. Miller of Chicago said.

Add the bare tar exposed from worn pavement of the

Bosnian roads, and it makes driving even scarier.

"You really can't judge how things can go on an icy road," Barcena said. "The most dangerous road condition is a patch of 'black ice', which is transparent ice.

"Most of the time when you hit black ice, it's already too late. All you can do is hold on," he said.

Engineers say soldiers should take responsibility for making sure their vehicles are in good shape.

And with winter just around the corner, heaters will be especially important.

"Heaters keep drivers alert, and keep windows clear," Barcena said. "Snow chains will also be important."

"They are the best equipment we have to keep vehicles on the road," Miller said.

Company B mechanics believe a level head can get a soldier through even the most dangerous of situations.

"We'd like to see everyone take it easy on the roads," Barcena said. "If soldiers stay calm and alert for any change in traffic or road conditions, it should be a good winter."

Italians on track to peace

By Capt.
MICHAEL H. MIETZNER
Coalition Press Information
Center Tuzla

When Capt. Luca Appollini and his 21-car *Reggimento Genio Ferrovieri* work train rolled into the Zvornik train station at Karakaj, Republika Srpska, it gave a whole new meaning to the old tune "I've been working on the railroad."

As part of IFOR's plan to restore rail links in Bosnia, this unique unit, under supervision of Hungarian engineers, was tasked to restore the rail line between Zvornik and Zivinci.

The railroad company of *Reggimento Genio Ferrovieri* is based in Castel Maggiore, Bologna, Italy. It has 21 railway cars, nine of which are rented from the Italian Federal Railway. The military train includes 12 cars: an operations/communications car, a briefing and conference room car, three sleeper cars, one dining car, a kitchen car, two storage and servicing cars, two 6,000-liter non-pota-



Warrant Officer Giuseppe Mellillo

Cpl. Piergiorgio Balbi (left) and Cpl. Giuseppe Balestracci repair a section of track, while Cpl. Francesco Paone provides security.

ble water tanker cars and the diesel engine.

It is a completely self-sufficient air-conditioned unit, capa-

ble of serving 300 meals a day, generating its own power and communicating by HF, VHF and UHF radio, INMARSAT telephone link and TACSAT.

The train also has an internal water purification system.

About 100 men, split into two platoons, deployed with the railroad company. The unit is supported by an Italian paratroop platoon which provides security.

"This is the only regiment-sized unit of this type in all of NATO," Appollini said. "The French and Spanish have similar smaller platoon- and section-sized units, but they wouldn't be able to take on an operation of this magnitude."

The Italian soldiers have their work cut out for them. They are responsible for 45 kilometers of track that has not been maintained since the Balkan conflict started four years ago. The soldiers started by clearing brush, weeds, small trees and other debris from the tracks and immediate area. A two-man Italian explosive ordnance disposal team, supported by Hungarian EOD, works one day ahead down the line, ensuring the area is free of mines, unexploded ordnance

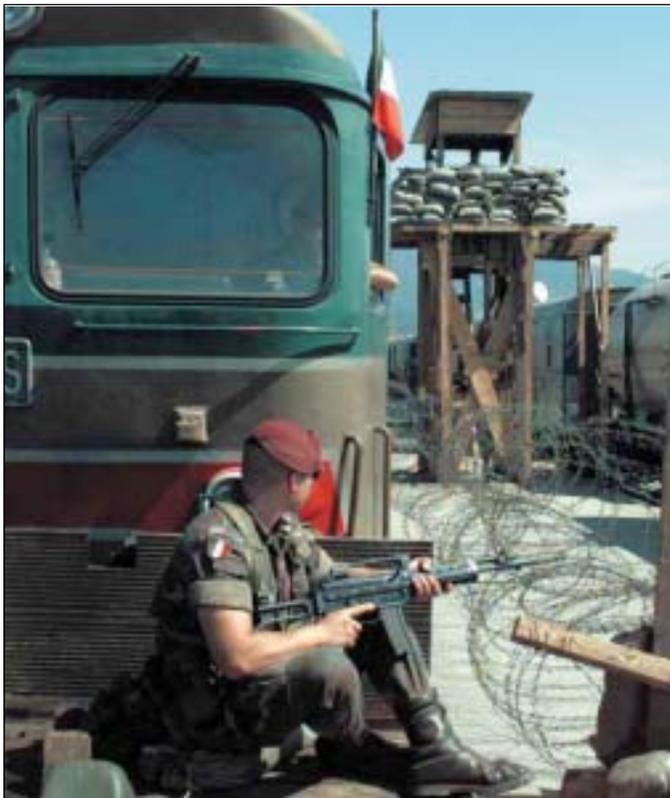
and booby traps. The team clears 10 meters on both sides of the tracks.

Work on the tracks is complicated by the need to repair sections where bunkers and fighting positions were dug into the railway bed and in some cases right under the tracks. In other areas sections of rail were simply blown apart, rendering the track unusable.

In yet another place, a 50-meter section of track had to be removed and replaced because the section had a serious bend or "snake" in it caused by tanks and other tracked vehicles crossing the rails. A massive landslide blocked another section of track, requiring the removal of debris almost entirely by hand.

The Italian soldiers expect to finish the job by the end of September. Their goal is to restore the main line to minimum military standards. This means that only military rail traffic can use the line, until functioning signals and communications are added. Further upgrading will be the responsibility of national authorities.

The deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina is the first foreign deployment for the unit in over 50 years.



Warrant Officer Giuseppe Mellillo

A paratrooper from 1st Battaglione Armamento e Pomti pulls security at Zvornik train station in Karakaj.

REDEPLOYMENT READJUSTMENTS

Prepare now for family reunions

By Chap. (Lt. Col.) Scott F. New
18th MP Brigade

What is foremost on the minds of many soldiers is redeployment. As soldiers get ready to redeploy, reunion with family, friends and loved ones will take a high priority.

It is the goal of the command that all soldiers go through reunion briefings. Most soldiers will be briefed by their unit chaplain before they leave their base camps and will go through an abbreviated brief at the Intermediate Staging Base.

The purpose of the reunion briefings is to bring an awareness to soldiers and family members what to expect upon coming back together. This article will look at common topics for all soldiers.

An obvious observation by all of us is that "things change." Each of us has gone through some changes the last several months. Eating habits, sleeping habits, hairstyle, gain or loss of weight are just some of the changes that many have gone through.

Whether or not these changes were intentional or just happened, we are not the same as we were prior to the deployment. It can be helpful if each person

accepts rather than being critical of these changes.

A warning for those being redeployed is to take it slow. Do not try to make up for a whole year in one day or in one week.

There is a lot that has happened and making things right or catching up with what has been missed will take time.

Take it slow and enjoy catching up over several weeks when you get back.

Another concern is to avoid the general tendency toward excessiveness: Eating, fast driving, alcohol consumption, spending, and sex are just some of the

areas soldiers should experience in moderation.

Another area of concern that all of us will experience is some awkwardness with those that were left behind. It may be a spouse, a child, or our friends. Whoever was left behind may have some initial uncomfotableness upon return. Work on getting reacquainted with one another.

This deployment has brought out a variety of emotions in everyone. It is helpful to acknowledge those mixed feelings. Some of the strong feelings are the following: Pride, anger and resentment, joy, cynicism, desire to forget, hurt, loneliness, accomplishment, tiredness and relief.

The last area in this article that will be mentioned is the opportunity to tell your story. It is important to take the time to tell your story of the past few months with someone who cares and is interested.

There can be a lot of stories and it can take months to recall them. When you tell your story, recognize the one you are telling your story to also has a story to tell you.

Listen to their story with the same interest you want them to give yours.

It is hoped that you will consider these areas as you prepare for redeployment and reunion with your loved ones back home.



Jacqueline Kline, 1, stands on the 1AD logo in Ray Barracks gymnasium in Friedberg, Germany

Hispanic heritage earns proclamation

WHEREAS, from the earliest days of our nation, Hispanics have played a central role in our country's development. First as explorers, then as settlers and today as leaders in all segments of society; and

WHEREAS, our Hispanic American communities continue to grow with our nation. They share with our nation deep pride in their language and culture, and sense of justice and compassion which nurtures our democratic system and keeps it progressing; and

WHEREAS, the history of Hispanics is one of proud ac-

complishments, thus providing a unique flavor to American history; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics have distinguished themselves and brought honor to this nation by serving admirably in its defense throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics continue to make significant and enduring contributions to our society, enriching us intellectually, spiritually, and culturally; and

WHEREAS, it is important to set aside recognition of Hispanic influence and contributions, with a sense of unity, in what this group has given to maintain the social, political,

and moral strength of this Nation.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Major General William L. Nash, Commander, Task Force Eagle, do hereby proclaim Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, 1996 to be "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

I urge all soldiers and civilians to recognize and appreciate all Hispanic contributions, both past and present, to the betterment of our Armed Forces and great nation.

WILLIAM L. NASH
Major General, USA
Commanding

Hispanic Heritage Month Activities:

- Steel Castle: Sept. 21 Latino Night; Sept. 25 Hispanic Catholic Mass; Oct. 11 Live Music with Latin Jazz Combo.
- Eagle Base, Tuzla: Spanish basic language classes through Oct. 15; Sept. 27 Fiesta Night.
- Slavovski Brod: Oct. 4 Sal-sa Night.
- Contact these individuals for more information:
- Sgt. 1st Class Ramon Feliciano, 557-0114;
- Sgt. 1st Class Gilbert Minor, 551-4010;
- Sgt. 1st Class Danny Migenes, 558-5826;
- Sgt. 1st Class Steven Mechar, 558-5727.

Peace pillows comfort Iron Soldiers

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS
350th MPAD

A roof over your head, a warm bed and a pillow to lay your head on — the simple things that make life enjoyable. Some soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina may have a leaky, canvas roof and hard cots to sleep on, but thanks to school children in Rockville, Md., some soldiers now have a “peace pillow.”

When Naomi Mezebish, a Meadow Hall Elementary School fifth-grade special education teacher, heard about the living and working conditions for the military serving during Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, she invented the “peace pillow.”

“When I found out about the military in Bosnia, sleeping in the rain, sloshing around in the mud, I wanted to do something to help them,” Mezebish said during an interview with the *Aspen Hill Gazette*.

She remembered the horse-shoe-shaped pillow she had used on a trip to Alaska, and came up with a similar pattern, custom-



Sgt. 1st Class Stephen M. Lum

Pfc. John P. Eledge from the 536th MP Company wears a neck pillow made by school children in Rockville, Md., hometown of Spc. Martin Begosh, the first American wounded in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

made for soldiers with camouflage on one side. The other side is full of drawings and messages created by students

Over the next four months the entire community got involved in the project, including Spc. Martin Begosh, the first American wounded in Bosnia. Begosh, who lives in nearby Aspen Hill, sent 50 of the pillows to his

former unit, the 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, still stationed at Guardian Base. The gifts were then distributed by Chap. (Capt.) Mike E. Yarman.

In his note, Begosh said the pillows were something from the kids to let soldiers know that people in the U.S. are still thinking about them and supporting what they are doing in the war-torn country.

Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Timothy J. Lamb appreciated the sentiment.

“It was good to hear from Spc. Begosh,” he said. “Even eight months after the incident he is still thinking of us. And it was a pleasant surprise to hear we still have people in the states thinking of us.” Yarman added, “It was neat to open the box and see all those pillows with the creative drawings.

“As uncomfortable as it can be to ride all day in a HMMWV, the pillow is a great piece of camouflaged equipment to have along. All the soldiers of the battalion thank the kids for showing us that they care.”

■ PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Actor turned soldier scores biggest role

By Spc. Craig Pickett
350th MPAD

CAMP MOLLY — The radio squelches and a call comes into the tactical operations center. Pfc. William C. Hare gets into his role as a radio operator and answers the call.

“I look at everything like playing a role,” the 26-year-old former actor from Pinole, Calif.

said. “Out here you’ve got a lot of people under stress, so sometimes you have to think like an actor. Being a radio operator is like a lot like acting. You play your role the best you can to support the big picture.”

Hare got his start in acting as an extra on the television show, “Unsolved Mysteries,” and he eventually earned a speaking role. The acting bug

bit him and he decided to try it as a career. He quit college and moved to Los Angeles and began doing some theater.

His big break came when his wife, Jordan, helped him get a part on the show “The Wonder Years.” Hare did five speaking episodes, and he worked as a stand-in and an extra.

“In the credits I was usually ‘The boy in the hall,’” he said.

Hare also appeared on Bob Eubanks’ show, “Infatuation.” He’s been in a beer commercial and a few movies. The most notable movie he appeared in was “Philadelphia Experiment II” with Dennis Quaid.

“I got to play a guard and yell — stop, stop — and shoot some people,” Hare said.

A string of bad luck followed. His agent’s business folded and the Los Angeles earthquake of ’94 destroyed his home and shook up his life. Hare moved in with his parents, Bob and Betty Hare in Lake Havasu, Ariz. He started waiting tables and wondering what to do. Then one night while watching “Sat-

urday Night Live” he saw an Army spot advertising \$30,000 for college and decided that’s what he would do — enlist.

“They didn’t have a job as an actor so I took a combat arms position, hoping to see Europe,” Hare said.

Hare is normally assigned to a tank platoon and drives an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank. He likes being part of a four-man tank team. “With a small group you get some good chemistry,” he said.

Now Hare is a member of Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry from Schweinfurt, Germany.

“Being the radio telegraph operator, you represent the battalion as a whole,” Hare said. “You have to know a lot and be well-versed in what’s going on.”

Hare is unsure whether he’ll reenlist, but he definitely plans to finish college and someday return to acting.

For now, Hare plays his role as an Army soldier in Bosnia-Herzegovina, manning the radio and keeping people informed.



Spc. Craig Pickett

Pfc. William C. Hare uses his skills as an actor to man the radio in the tactical operations center at Camp Molly.

IFOR from page 1

Battalion, 10th Special Forces escorted the delegation.

"I'm glad to see that the lines are long and that people are voting," Jaros said.

Jaros has a special interest in the Bosnian elections. He was born and raised in northwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina, eventually immigrating to the United States in 1960.

The delegation made stops at three polling stations, stopping to chat with citizens who had voted or were standing in line, waiting to cast ballots.

"One of the things I have noticed here are the smiles on the faces of these people," King said.

"They are truly excited about taking part in a very historic event."

The delegation was greeted in Tuzla by Mayor Selim Beslagic.

He said all the polling stations were running smoothly and the situation was peaceful in Tuzla.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Murtha said, "We appreciate your hospitality. Maj. Gen. Nash and all American troops express their appreciation for your cooperation with the United States.

"We hope we will be able to leave soon, and let you get on with your future as quickly as possible."

Beslagic replied that he would like to see IFOR stay a bit longer.

After leaving Tuzla the delegation boarded helicopters and flew to Kalesija.

In Kalesija the American politicians saw the ravages of war.

As he walked to the polling station, King said he was surprised to see partially destroyed buildings still being inhabited.

"It's a shame these people were subjected to such a horrible war," he said.

The polling station was a small building crammed with people waiting their turn to vote.

VOTE from page 1

when I marked my ballots. I felt excitement when I put my ballots in the boxes. I felt like people were staring at me wondering who I voted for. But that is a secret. I had a strange feeling when I left.

I went to the polling station after work. It was about 6:30 p.m. The place was at a school.

First they put a special light on my hand to see if I had already voted. Election officials sprayed an invisible ink on the fingers of people who voted.

Next they asked my birthday. I showed an ID and they gave me four ballots. Each ballot was a different color. One

was for the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina. One was for the Federation House of Representatives.

Another was for the Bosnia-Herzegovina House of Representatives. The last ballot was for my canton.

I voted in private. No one could see what I marked. I folded the ballots and I put them in boxes.

At first I was a little confused. Each ballot had a different color. You put the ballot in a box that had the same color. So the orange ballot went in the orange box.

Now the election is over. I hope the elections will mean something. At first, I didn't

think it was so important if I voted or not. Now, I am glad that I did.

I wish that our situation was different. But we can't go back and change what has happened. This is our destiny.

Our future depends on the people who voted. I think the elections were fair, but I think some people did not vote because they were afraid to go back to their hometown.

There were also some problems with voter lists, but that was a problem that local election officials handled.

Many people helped make the elections happen. I think IFOR has done a lot. They have shown a lot of patience.



Photo by: Spc. Rob Glenn

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry patrol a road near Brcko Sept. 14.

Even though the line was long, most voters were smiling.

The delegation toured the polling station, then walked across the street to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe election committee headquarters where they met Norman Pender, an OSCE official.

"I think today has been excellent," Pender said.

Miles Fischer, another election supervisor, said voter turnout had been so good at his polling stations, extra ballots had to be brought in.

"I work five polling stations," Fischer said. "And ballots were running low at every location I've been to."

Citizens who were not on the initial list went to the OSCE headquarters and quick-

ly resolved the problem.

"We had this gentleman come in here who wasn't on the initial list. It turns out he was in the army fighting in the war, so obviously there was no way he could have made the initial list."

"However, he went to the committee office, filled out the necessary form and was ready to vote in minutes," Pender said.

The American delegation left the polling station for the flight back to Eagle Base satisfied with what they had seen.

"I initially opposed any deployment to this area of the world," Murtha said. "I felt being a part of IFOR, it would be a disaster for Americans.

"However, I've opened my eyes, and I have come to realize that this deployment has been a marvelous success."

Stars and Stripes wants longtimers

S&S is looking for soldiers who served in Bosnia-Herzegovina before IFOR arrived. If you served with the United Nations or any agency supporting operations in the former Yugoslavia, a journalist would like to talk to you about your experiences. Kevin Dougherty, a Bosnia Bureau reporter, is the point of contact for anyone who is interested. PTT 0038-775-821-037.